

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-6 remain in the application. Claims 1, 3, and 6 have been amended.

In item 2 on pages 2-3 of the above-mentioned Office action, claims 1-3 and 6 have been rejected as being anticipated by Ishizuka et al. (US Pat. No. 6,469,325) under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

In item 4 on pages 3-4 of the above-mentioned Office action, claim 5 has been rejected as being unpatentable over Ishizuka et al. in view of Satoh et al. (US Pat. No. 4,695,916) under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

The rejections have been noted and claims 1, 3, and 6 have been amended in an effort to even more clearly define the invention of the instant application. Support for the changes is found in, for example, Fig. 1 and the corresponding description in the specification.

Before discussing the prior art in detail, it is believed that a brief review of the invention as claimed, would be helpful.

Claims 1, 3, and 6 call for, inter alia:

auxiliary electrodes disposed on said common surface and each adjoining one of said second and third regions, said auxiliary electrodes being formed as gate electrodes and being electrically conductively connected with a respective one of said first terminal and said second terminal.

According to the invention as recited in the amended claims of the instant application, the auxiliary electrodes are formed as gate electrodes and are connected with a respective neighboring first terminal and second terminal in an electrically conductive manner. This causes the thyristor structures configured for ESD protection to be free from parasitic effects on the surface and the thyristor structure can only be "ignited" via the thyristor gate. This kind of structure is not disclosed by Ishizuka et al. The NMOS-transistor Q4, as shown in Fig. 18 of Ishizuka et al., does not correspond to the above-described structure because it bridges the entire thyristor structure, which is decoupled by the resistor R2.

Clearly, Ishizuka et al. do not show "said auxiliary electrodes being formed as gate electrodes and being electrically conductively connected with a respective one of said first terminal and said second terminal," as recited in claims 1, 3, and 6 of the instant application.

Claims 1, 3, and 6 are, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art and since all of the dependent claims are dependent on claims 1 or 3, they are believed to be patentable as well.

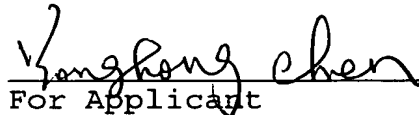
In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-6 are solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel would appreciate a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made. Please charge any fees which might be due with respect to 37 CFR Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner and Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,

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